

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

February 22, 2001 LB 286, 368

problems would exist. Thank you and hope for your affirmative vote.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Janssen. The question is the advancement of LB 286 to E & R Initial. Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Voting on the advancement of LB 286. Mr. Clerk, please record.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays on the motion to advance the bill, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: LB 286 is advanced. Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Next bill, Mr. President, is LB 368, a bill offered by Senator Dierks. (Read title.) The bill was read for the first time on January 8, 2001; referred to the Government Committee; that committee reports the bill to General File with no committee amendments.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Dierks, you're recognized to open on LB 368.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, I'm opening today on LB 368, which brings Nebraska statute up-to-date with federal regula...federal statutes in regards to service dates of wartime veterans. Currently, to be considered a veteran of Vietnam one must have served starting August 5, 1964, to May 7, 1975. The August 5 date was recognized under federal law as the beginning date of Vietnam. This was the date that President Johnson requested the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution. However, some time ago the federal law changed the date to December 22, 1961, the first reported combat-related death in Vietnam, and that was SP4, James Thomas Davis of Tennessee. Recently, the federal law again revised the date to February 28, 1961. As you can see on the sheet that I have passed out, this is the date that the American Legion also uses for membership. LB 368 amends Nebraska statute so that the correct defining date will be February 28 of '61 to May 7 of '75. It brings Nebraska statutes in conformity with the federal guidelines and the guidelines used by the American Legion. This will allow more veterans...more Nebraska veterans...Vietnam